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Recreational Fisheries Discussion

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

December 5, 2013



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Recreational Fishing Statistics (2011)

70 million trips

364,000
jobs supported

\$74
billion in
sales &
income
impacts

11
million
anglers

More than just an enjoyable way to spend time with friends
and family...



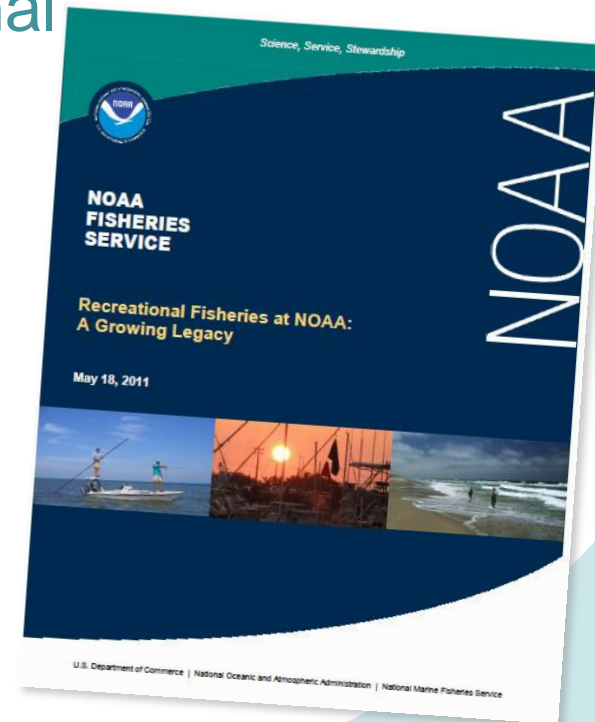
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Recreational Fisheries Engagement

Establish a strong and trusting partnership with the recreational fishing community through action

Engagement Initiative Pillars:

- Fishing Opportunities
- Recreational Catch and Effort Data
- Socio-economic data
- Communications
- Institutional Orientation



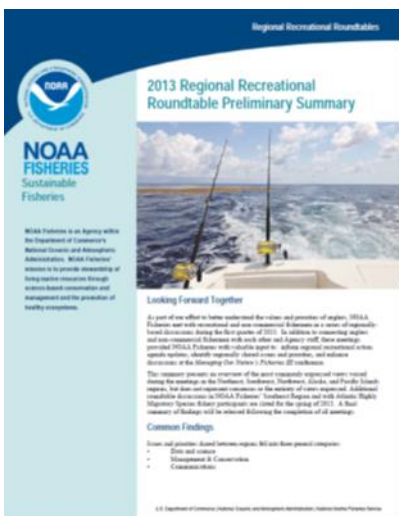
2013 Primary Focus



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- Regional recreational fisheries roundtables (Spring)
- Managing Our Nations Fisheries III (Spring)
- National angler perceptions survey (analysis ongoing)
- MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group white paper (ongoing)

- Regional recreational action agendas (ongoing)
- Recreational release mortality (ongoing)
- “Idle Iron”



For more information on the NOAA Fisheries Recreational Engagement Initiative please check us out at:
www.noaa.gov/southwestmanagement
www.noaa.gov



Regional Recreational Fisheries Roundtables

(Jan. – May 2013)



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KEY FINDINGS

Data & Science

- Confidence in catch/effort data varies, but is generally low
- Interest in electronic self-reported data systems
- Better quantify recreational releases & mortality rates

Management

- Management too biologically conservative
- Inadequate understanding of cumulative effects of lost of fishing opportunities from all sources
- Stability desired



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Managing Our Nation's Fisheries III

Themes

- Improving Fishery Management Essentials
- Advancing Ecosystem-based Decision-making
- Providing for Fishing Community Sustainability

Key Findings – Recreational Discussions

- More and better communication & representation
- Explore management alternatives to MSY
- Additional flexibility re: Annual Catch Limits
- Standardize and require review of allocation decisions
- Expand socio-economic analysis requirements and application of results
- More cooperative research



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Angler Opinions and Perceptions Survey

First nation-wide survey of anglers attitudes and opinions related to recreational saltwater fishing quality and management.

- 9,000+ anglers responded
- 22 coastal states – Continental U.S. and AK

Benefits

- Provides a snapshot of current perceptions
- Establishes baseline against which to judge performance
- Allows for more informed decision-making

Key Findings

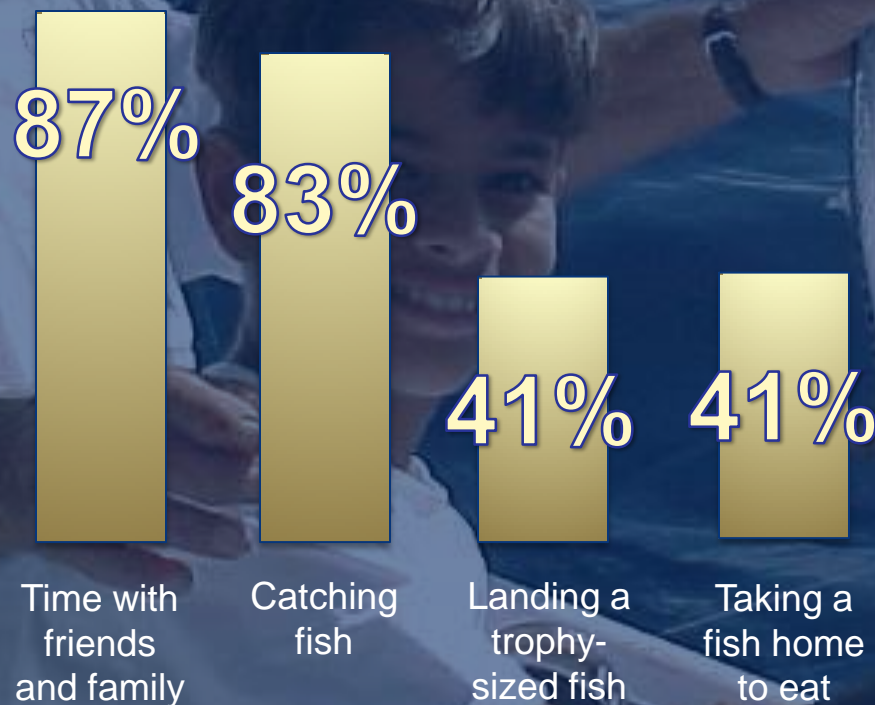
1. Anglers are optimistic about the future.
2. Anglers go fishing for a variety of reasons.
3. Anglers prefer management that protects access and opportunity.
4. Anglers would like management to improve.
5. Anglers possess a strong conservation ethic.

Anglers are optimistic about future fishing opportunities.

81%

Plan to take the same number or more trips next year as last.

Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.



Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers prefer management strategies that preserve fishing opportunities:

Minimum sizes

Artificial habitats

Bag limits

Closed areas

Shorter seasons



Management can improve.

- ✓ Provide more fish.
- ✓ Better incorporate angler input in decision-making.
- ✓ Use high-quality data in assessments.
- ✓ Enforce regulations.
- ✓ Ensure consistent state/fed regulations.
- ✓ Make regulations simpler.

84% Important to have my voice heard.

29% Satisfied my perspective is adequately considered.

Anglers have a strong conservation ethic.

95% Believe it's important to ensure high quality fishing for future generations.

Strong support for conservation goals.



On the Horizon



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2014

- **Recreational economics workshop (Jan.)**
- **Regional recreational action agendas (Jan.)**
- **National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit II (April 2014)**
- **Next generation national recreational action agenda (Fall)**





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Thank You

Questions?

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